I claim:

1. An animal oral care composition comprising:

(a) a carrier having a negatively charged surface obtaining an animal oral care composition andadministering the composition to the animal in a form that will be voluntarily chewed by the animal; and

(b) an effective dose of a therapeutic composition for achieving activity in the oral cavity of the animal, wherein the therapeutic composition contains at least a cationic antimicrobial substance and is in a saliva soluble form positioned close to or at the surface of the carrier.

2. A composition according to claim 1, wherein the therapeutic composition contains a counterion in addition to the cationic antimicrobial substance.

3. A composition according to claim 2, wherein the counterion is selected from the group consisting of sodium and potassium salts of hydrochloric acid, hydrobromic acid, gluconic acid, and acetic acid.

4. A composition according to claim 1, wherein the cationic antimicrobial agent is selected from the group consisting of chlorhexidine diacetate, chlorhexidine digluconate, cetylpyridinium chloride, domiphen bromide, benzalkonium chloride, benzethonium chloride, and alexidene.

5. A composition accoridng to claim 2, wherein the cationic microbial substance is chlorhexidine and the counterion is sodium gluconate.

6. A composition according to claim 1, wherein the carrier is a proteinaceous carrier.

7. A composition according to claim 6, wherein the proteinaceous carrier is a rawhide chew.

8. A method for providing dental health in an animal comprising:

(a) obtaining an animal oral care composition; and

(b) administering the composition to the animal in a form that will be voluntarily chewed by the animal.

9. A method according to claim 8, wherein the therapeutic composition contains a counterion in addition to the cationic antimicrobial substance.

10. A method according to claim 9, wherein the counterion is selected from the group consisting of sodium and potassium salts of hydrochloric acid, hydrobromic acid, gluconic acid, and acetic acid.

11. A method according to claim 8, wherein the cationic antimicrobial agent is selected from the group consisting of chlorhexidine diacetate, chlorhexidine digluconate, cetylpyridinium chloride, domiphen bromide, benzalkonium chloride, benzethonium chloride, and alexidene.

12. A method according to claim 11, wherein the cationic microbial substance is chlorhexidine and the counterion is sodium gluconate.

13. A method according to claim 8, wherein the proteinaceous carrier is a rawhide chew.